

I AM Navy Medicine

RSS : Posts Comments

NAVY MEDICINE LIVE

THE OFFICIAL BLOG OF U.S. NAVY AND MARINE CORPS HEALTH CARE • 2011 & 2012 WINNER OF BEST NAVY BLOG

HomeAboutDisclaimerNavy Medicine NewsNavy Medicine WebSiteI AM Navy Medicine

Written on MARCH 16, 2015 AT 8:00 AM by SVANDERWERFF

# A Time of Reflection

Filed under COMMUNICATION, LEADERSHIP, MILITARY MEDICINE

[NO COMMENTS]



The mission of this biomedical research lab is to improve medical outcomes and capabilities in combat and restorative medicine.

**By Capt. Rita G. Simmons, MSC, commanding officer, Naval Medical Research Unit-San Antonio**

Three months into the New Year and I am fast approaching the finish line of my term as Commanding Officer for the Naval Medical Research Unit -San Antonio (NAMRU-SA). It is a time of reflection on the achievements of the command and a heralding of what's to come under new leadership.

Located in South Texas on the San Antonio, Military Joint Base complex, the Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio is one of eight subordinate research commands in the global network of laboratories operating under the Naval Medical Research Center, Silver Spring, Maryland. The mission of this

## Navy Medicine Video

Navy Medicine is a global healthcare network of 63,000 Navy medical personnel around the world who provide high quality health care to more than one million eligible beneficiaries. Navy Medicine personnel deploy with Sailors and Marines worldwide, providing critical mission support aboard ship, in the air, under the sea and on the battlefield.

## Navy Medicine Social Media

Follow us on Twitter

Join us on Facebook

Read our publications

View our photo stream

Watch our videos

## Navy Medicine Live Archives

- April 2015 (4)
- March 2015 (21)
- February 2015 (16)
- January 2015 (12)



biomedical research lab is to improve medical outcomes and capabilities in combat casualty care and craniofacial health and restorative medicine.

During my tenure our scientific teams have been prolific in the delivery of innovative products to sponsors and clients with substantial increases in products per project and other types of tangible return on investment. Highlights of the past two years include awards for projects to improve craniofacial wound management and infection control. With an interdisciplinary team of biomedical engineers, cell biologist, immunologist, mechanical engineers, biomaterials experts, and dentist, our researchers developed a novel approach to creating biocompatible nanofibers to create an antimicrobial wound dressing.

NAMRU-SA scientists contributed to the fight against drug-resistant “superbugs” with unique projects resulting in patents filed for a laser-induced photo-acoustic method to destroy bacteria and a portable and rechargeable field-ready ozone sterilizer. The lab’s shock and resuscitation research is advancing our understanding of the molecular aspects of the immune response to shock and the long-term effects in warfighters. These investigations will aid us in understanding why certain therapies work and others don’t.

NAMRU-SA, as the BUMED lead agent for mercury abatement, developed several novel approaches to ensure that ninety-nine percent of mercury associated with medical or dental treatments is captured before entering any waste water stream. The redesigned composite amalgam filter will be an inexpensive, effective way to significantly reduce mercury burden into the public waterways.

As I set the stage for my departure, my eyes turn to 2015 and the strategic collaboration and interdisciplinary culture that will continue to shape how we work-and how we work together. Creating a collaborative environment will remain at the forefront of my priorities and I trust it will be a hallmark of this laboratory for years to come.

As I depart for my new position as Commanding Officer of the Naval Health Research Center, San Diego, I am honored to have served with an exceptionally brilliant and highly motivated staff that embraces a culture of collaboration, and who are driven to investigate and find research solutions to the critical needs of the warfighters and the clinicians who treat them.



During my tenure our scientific teams have been prolific in the delivery of innovative products to sponsors and clients with substantial increases in products per project and other types of tangible return on investment.

December 2014 (17)

November 2014 (11)

October 2014 (15)

September 2014 (20)

August 2014 (14)

July 2014 (13)

June 2014 (8)

May 2014 (11)

April 2014 (9)

March 2014 (14)

February 2014 (7)

January 2014 (7)

December 2013 (7)

November 2013 (12)

October 2013 (7)

September 2013 (14)

August 2013 (13)

July 2013 (11)

June 2013 (22)

May 2013 (15)

April 2013 (14)

March 2013 (14)

February 2013 (14)

January 2013 (12)

December 2012 (11)

November 2012 (11)

October 2012 (7)

September 2012 (9)

August 2012 (12)